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27 December 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Attached is Scoville's recommended position in connection with Charyk's proposal on the A-12. I am in agreement with it. I think the real crux of the matter is whether or not the President will ever authorize its use over the Soviet Union. I doubt that he is prepared to make that decision now and, accordingly, I would urge that we stand firm and not surface the vehicle at this time. I think this must be a Presidential decision and must be clearly and forceably made directly to the members of the National Security Council. Otherwise I fear that in the interest of expedience, those people who are trapped with the political unpleasantness of the situation will not be as security conscious as they should be. I am informed very clandestinely that the Air Force, at least the military elements, are not at all enchanted with this Charyk proposal.

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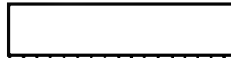
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